

**Johnson, Patrick**

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**From:** Ana Mejia-Dietche <anamejiadietche@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2013 5:21 PM  
**To:** District Applications  
**Subject:** Commission Application  
**Attachments:** Ana.FINAL ENGLISH FILLABLE Commission Application FORM.pdf

Attached please find the application.

Thank you.

Ana Mejia-Dietche  
2401 Vista Lane  
512.481.1424



10494

# APPLICATION FOR THE INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Please submit your completed application  
by email to [district.applications@austintexas.gov](mailto:district.applications@austintexas.gov)  
by mail or in person to:  
Office of the City Auditor  
301 W. 2nd Street Suite 2130  
Austin, TX 78701

*Application Period:  
January 18, 2013  
through  
February 22, 2013*

**FOR ASSISTANCE WITH INTERPRETING KEY TERMS, SEE THE GLOSSARY  
AT THE END OF THIS APPLICATION**

**MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS CAN BE FOUND IN  
THE CITY AUDITOR'S INTERPRETIVE GUIDANCE AND THE CITY CHARTER  
AT [WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/10-ONE](http://WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/10-ONE)**

You must submit an electronic application to [district.applications@austintexas.gov](mailto:district.applications@austintexas.gov)  
or provide a signed application to the Office of the City Auditor in person or by mail at:

301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 2130

Austin, TX 78701

**Submission Deadline: February 22, 2013**

**DUTIES AND TERMS OF SERVICE**

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission **duties** include:

1. Conduct duties with integrity and fairness.
2. Conduct an open and transparent process to enable full public consideration of and comment on the drawing of district lines to include an open hearing process.
3. Draw district lines in accordance with specific redistricting criteria in the Charter.
4. Adopt a final redistricting plan and certify the plan to the Austin City Council.
5. Issue a report that explains the basis on which the Commission made its decisions.

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Member **terms of service** include:

1. Members of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) will not be compensated for serving, but are eligible to receive reimbursement of reasonable and necessary expenses related to Commission duties. Guidance on what is considered "reasonable and necessary" will be provided by the appropriate authority at a later date.
2. Serve a term of office that expires when the first member of the succeeding Commission is appointed in the year after the next national census is taken.
3. Members of the Commission will be subject to the following restrictions on their future activities:
  - For a period of **10** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **will not** be eligible to be elected to the Austin City Council.
  - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not** hold appointed office for the City of Austin.
  - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not**:
    - Serve as a City employee or as a paid consultant to the City of Austin.
    - Serve as a paid consultant to a member of the City Council in the council member's private capacity; or
    - Receive a non-competitively bid contract with the City of Austin.

APPLICATION FOR THE  
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

2013

Please complete this section legibly.

Name of Applicant: Mejia-Dietche Ana Isabel  
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

Voter Registration Number (VUID): 1144822392

Residence Address (must be a fixed location in the City of Austin):

2401 Vista Ln Austin Tx 78703  
(Street Address) (City) (State) (Zip)

Mailing Address (if different from Residence Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address or PO Box) (City) (State) (Zip)

Contact Phone: 512 481-1424

Contact Email Address: anamejiadietche@att.net

Spouse's Name: Dietche Paul Christian Jr  
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

13-02-22P06:50 RCVD

**APPLICATION FOR THE  
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

**2013**

Please check YES or NO by each requirement. If you answer YES to question one (1), you may skip questions four (4) and five (5).

1. Are you a student enrolled in a community college or university in the City of Austin? ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. Do you reside in the City of Austin? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Are you registered to vote in the City of Austin? ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. Have you been continuously registered to vote in the City of Austin for the five years immediately preceding the date on which you submit this application? ☒ Yes ☐ No
5. Please indicate whether you voted in the following City of Austin general elections (or corresponding runoff if applicable):

City of Austin General Elections	Candidate Response
May 12, 2012	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 14, 2011	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 9, 2009	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 10, 2008	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 13, 2006	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

# APPLICATION FOR THE INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

**2013**

## Conflicts of Interest

The information below is required to help the City Auditor identify any conflict of interest you may have.

<b>Within 5 years of the application date, have you or your spouse:</b>	
Been appointed to a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been elected to a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been a candidate for a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county, or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been a registered state or local lobbyist?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Within 3 years of the application date, have you or your spouse been:</b>	
A paid employee of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>In the last City Election did you or your spouse:</b>	
Contribute or bundle one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more in aggregate to candidates for City of Austin elective office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



**Personal Background Information**

- **Ethnicity:** Latina (Colombia)
- **Race:** White
- **Gender:** ☐ Male ☒ Female
- **Age: (Please check your response)**  
☐ 18 to 24    ☐ 25 to 34    ☐ 35 to 44    ☒ 45 to 54    ☐ 55 to 64    ☐ 65+
- **Education level: (Please check any that apply)**  
☒ High School Diploma or GED  
☐ Some College (major \_\_\_\_\_)  
☐ Associate's Degree (major \_\_\_\_\_)  
☒ Bachelor's Degree (major English)  
☒ Post-Graduate Degree, indicate highest degree attained: (subject JD/Law)

**Qualifications**

**Please describe your relevant analytical skills.**

I was trained in analysis at both the undergraduate (English) and graduate (law) levels. Through that training, I learned to organize information, place it in its historical context, evaluate viewpoints and appreciate the balance between the past and the present before reaching any conclusions.

For most of my career including the last seven years, my employment has involved the development of a thorough understanding and deep appreciation of several highly evolved regulatory environments: first law, then healthcare, education and workforce development. This presents an opportunity to observe the opportunities and restrictions these policies offer to those who work within them. I am told that I am skilled at finding common ground as these groups work together and with community organizations.

Furthermore, in both my legal work and in my work as a grant writer and writing professor, I am comfortable not only reading rules and applying them to different situations but also explaining the rules and the process of analysis to others.



**Please describe your ability to be impartial.**

This may be my strong suit. I am employed full time in a job where I work with institutions that are competitors in their markets. Being impartial enables me to gain trust from all the players and to work with them from day to day.

The same skills are needed and honed in my work as an adjunct professor. Teaching at a community college involves contact with people from all walks of life and many different points of view. My responsibility is to view them as equals and to hear their opinions of view and grade papers without prejudice. I take this responsibility to heart and while my students may complain that the work is difficult, they do not complain that I am unfair.

Again, my professional training prepared me to see problems from more than one point of view and to weigh all sides of an argument.

**Please describe your appreciation for the City of Austin's diverse demographics and geography.**

I've lived in Austin since 1990 and I love this city. I've lived or worked in the Highland Mall area, Tarrytown, Lost Creek and downtown areas at different times. I've raised my two sons in the public schools on the east and west sides and taken classes and/or worked on campuses in every part of town. In these years, I've met many wonderful people. I've also seen the ebb and flow of development in each of these areas of Austin and enjoyed and been concerned about every part of the city.

In 2006, this concern took a more political turn and I ran unsuccessfully for the ACC Board of Trustees. Although I did not win, this experience was actually a joy and the best education I could have as to the geography of the city. As I met people in every neighborhood in Austin and participated in a number of forums throughout the city, I came away with a much better picture of our city. Running alongside city council candidates, I witnessed each groups' questions of their potential representatives. Visiting these meetings gave me a new perspective on the diversity and character of each neighborhood I visited. I realized I did not know some as well as others. I saw the passion and concern that each group of citizens brings to their neighborhood concerns and won most of the endorsements I sought.

As a grant writer and someone working on workforce issues, I monitor the demographics of the city regularly for use in proposals and probably have a better understanding of the trends in different areas of the city than most citizens. I follow news from many outlets in two languages. I have served on a number of nonprofit boards including organizations serving girls, at risk students, women with legal problems, and those impacted by the digital divide.

**Please provide any other information you wish to be considered during the selection of the most qualified applicants for the Commission.**

If I were evaluating people for this opportunity, I would want to know this: Why do you want to volunteer?

For me the answer is that I am a first generation American who truly believes in the power of the individual vote as a precious privilege in a working democracy. Living safely in a democratic society in this beautiful city is a privilege.

My parents are Colombian immigrants and I spent time there every summer growing up. It's a beautiful place and I love its people and culture and feel a part of it.

Yet, my being an immigrant's child meant that I experienced being "different" in many ways. As a kid abroad, I was the "gringa" trying to find a place within the family my parents left behind. Here, I was the Spanish-speaking kid trying to find a place in a school which was integrated into three segregated groups. Living in the white neighborhood, I was a target for ridicule from the Spanish-speaking kids who were bused from other parts of town in junior high and high school because I was not one of them. Yet, I was never part of the neighborhood crowd because I was not a Texan. I wondered if I would ever feel truly American.

As an adult, I've lived in several regions of the United States. In college, I was surprised as I moved east, away from the Mexican -American community of my youth where my difference could be an issue since our family's history was different, and to a place with a small, but more diverse "Hispanic" group. Expecting the diversity to bring more of an imperative for understanding, I found deep divisions among the Latino communities from different parts of the country and from different Latin and Central American countries and again between these groups and other minorities on campus. I grew to appreciate why each group yearned to retain individual identity and even to reject labels like Hispanic, Asian or African-American. This is a lesson I keep with me.

In Washington DC, we lived in a neighborhood that was experiencing gentrification. Although these were tough years for the part of the city where we lived and many were resisting the change in the population, this first experience of living a majority African American community was a positive one and one that brought more appreciation of culture and place. We found a church, shopped locally and we and our new baby received a warm welcome everywhere. We felt at home, so when we moved to Austin, we looked for a neighborhood with diversity. We found one and only left (with regret) after six years when we felt that the local schools would not serve our sons well. This should not be the case for anyone. Schools should be great everywhere in the city.

Change is constant and economic and other forces will drive diversity everywhere but that should not rob individual communities of their voice.

In other parts of the world, including the country where most of my family still lives, people die to get a chance to vote so a minority will not rule. Here, too many stay home and create minority rule by default. I vote with pride and my hope is that this new model will encourage participation citywide and give communities representatives that they can relate to. For this to be the case, we must define boundaries that honor and preserve differences while promoting understanding. I would be honored to be a part of this process.

**DISCLAIMER**

By submitting this application, I understand that I am giving the City Auditor permission to release my information to the public. In particular, I affirmatively consent to the release of the contact email address I have provided.

If I am appointed, my address, contact phone number and contact email address will be included on the City of Austin's website.

I understand my application is public information under the Texas Public Information Act. The information will be kept according to the City Auditor's records retention policies.

I understand that my participation on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is voluntary.

I understand the duties and terms of service for the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission as described above.

Under penalty of law, I swear or affirm that the preceding information in this application is in all things true and correct.

**Ana Mejia-Dietche**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

**2/22/2013**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

If submitting electronically, please type your full name in the signature box.

**GLOSSARY**

- “Bundle” means to raise money as an intermediary for a council candidate by soliciting contributions on the candidate’s behalf.
- “Campaign committee” in regard to an “officer, employee or paid consultant of a campaign committee” means a candidate or a specific purpose political committee supporting or opposing a candidate.
- “Candidate” for elective office means a person whose name appeared on a ballot, or who was a declared write-in candidate, in a general or primary election. It does not mean a person who merely announced a candidacy or only filed campaign finance filings. This definition attempts to construe the term against ineligibility, avoid ambiguity and disputes of fact, and use the term in the way most commonly understood by a lay person.
- “City” means Austin.
- “City elective office” means the office of mayor and city council member.
- “City employee” means an employee on the City payroll, including a temporary or part-time employee. The term does not include an independent contractor. This definition follows the definition in Section 2-7-2 of the City Code.
- “City office,” with respect to appointment, means a municipal court judgeship (including a substitute judgeship), and membership on a commission, committee, board, task force, or other City body appointed by the mayor or the city council. This definition follows the definition of “city official” in Section 2-7-2 of the City Code, excluding those City officials who are covered separately as City employees.
- “Community college or university in the City of Austin” means a degree-granting post-secondary educational institution, accredited by a recognized accrediting agency under the Education Code, that grants one or more of the following: an associate’s degree, a bachelor’s degree, a master’s degree, or a doctorate, and that regularly conducts classes where the instructor and two or more students are physically present in a physical location within Austin’s city limits.
- “Contribution,” for purposes of calculating aggregate contributions to candidates for City elective office, includes all contributions to candidates for mayor and city council, and contributions to specific purpose political committees supporting or opposing those candidates.
- “County” refers to a county in which the City of Austin has territory.
- “County elective office” means an office that is voted on county-wide or an office that is voted on by the voters of a precinct drawn by a commissioners court.
- “Employee” with respect to a political party or campaign committee means a person who was paid a salary by the political party or campaign committee.
- “Local lobbyist” means a person required to register under Chapter 4-8 of the City Code.
- “Non-competitively bid contract” means a contract which must be awarded as provided in Section 252.043 of the Local Government Code (“lowest responsible bidder” or “best value for the municipality”).

- “Officer” with respect to the “campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county or city office” means:
  - the campaign treasurer of a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office;
  - the campaign treasurer of a specific purpose political committee that supported or opposed a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office; or
  - an officer or director of an incorporated specific purpose political committee, incorporated for liability purposes only under Section 253.092 of the Texas Election Code, that supported or opposed a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office.
- “Officer” with respect to a political party means a precinct chair, a county chair, or a member of a party executive committee under Title 10 of the Texas Election Code.
- “Paid Consultant” with respect to work done for a political party or campaign committee means a person who was paid monetary consideration for providing legal services, accounting services, public relations services, statistical or polling services, or political or campaign-related services or advice.
- “Paid Consultant” with respect to the three year ban on paid consultancy with a council member, means having a “political or professional contract” with a council member as defined in this guidance.
- “Political or professional contract,” in the context of a contract with a council member, means a contract with a council member under which, in return for consideration, a person provided expert advice or personal services related to a council member's duties or to the council member's service as a council member, or provided advice about the conduct of campaign activities or holding office, or provided services to a council member that would be reportable on the council member's required campaign and officeholder filings under Title 15 of the Texas Election Code; Article III, §8 of the Austin City Charter; or Chapter 2-2 of the Austin City Code. This does not include a contract solely for the sale of goods.
- “Political party” means a political party that appeared on the ballot in any of the last three general elections for state and county officers.
- “Professional contract,” in the context of a contract with the City means a non-competitively bid contract other than a contract solely for the sale of goods.
- “State” means Texas.
- “State office” means an office held by a “state officer” as defined in Section 572.002 of the Government Code.
  - In the context of an appointment to a state office, “state office” means: the office of Secretary of State, an office of a state agency subject to appointment for a term of office specified by the Texas Constitution or a statute of this state; an office subject to appointment with the advice and consent of the senate; the position of executive head of a state agency; or a state office subject to election but filled by appointment because of a vacancy or because the office is newly created.
  - In the context of candidacy or election to a state office, “state office” means a seat in the legislature, an executive or judicial office filled in a statewide election; a judgeship of a court of appeals or of a district court; membership on the State Board of Education; or the position of district attorney or criminal district attorney.
- “Student” means a person actively enrolled in a community college or university on the date of the person’s application to the Commission.

